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branches of natural science. It is gratifying to have so timely and ably written a book on Yunnan. A considerable part of it is a revelation of the unknown, for the author travelled over 5,500 miles in the country and more than half of the regions he visited had never been explored by white men. The book will be indispensable to geographers who specialize in eastern Asia and to any person interested in the development of this rich part of China.

It is a record of four journeys which Major Davies made in Yunnan between 1894 and 1900. Their purpose was to ascertain the feasibility of constructing a railroad between India and the Yangtse River. The studies for the suggested railroad were so extended that the author was able to lay out a route for the consideration of the British Government. He makes it perfectly clear that the engineering difficulties in this land of mountains will be formidable and that the prospects of financial success, in the near future, are doubtful. In the first three chapters, he discusses the project, and in one of the appendixes gives a more detailed description of the proposed line and of the nature and products of the region through which it would pass.

The great interest of the volume, to the general reader, is the author's account of his travels in Yunnan and the neighbouring provinces. His narrative includes a large amount of information concerning the various tribes of western China, some of whom are so shut out from the rest of the world that their headmen were doubtful as to the necessity of respecting even a passport from the imperial authorities at Peking; and the country ahead was occasionally thrown into a state of excitement by rumours that an invading army was approaching.

The nine appendixes enlarge upon the commercial, industrial and ethnical aspects of the Province; and the numerous photographs and fine map add much to the interest and value of this exceptional work.

Die Küstenseen des Rigaer Meerbusens. By F. Ludwig. (Arbeiten des Naturforschervereins in Riga, New Fol., 11.) 197 pp., 3 Tables and 23 Plates and Map. W. F. Häcker, Riga, 1908.

Twenty-six lakes are considered, chiefly as to the chemical constituents of their waters and mud, their plankton, colour, transparency, temperature and depth of the mud bed which, in places, is as much as 16 feet thick. The coloured plates show contours of depth and profiles and a map, 1:200,000, illustrates the position of the lakes.

BRIEF MENTION.

The Stereograph and Stereoscope. With Special Maps and Books forming a Travel System. By Albert E. Osborne. x and 288 pp., Drawings and Index. Underwood & Underwood, New York, 1909. \$1. The author describes various kinds of pictures and explains, with the aid of diagrams, the stereograph and stereoscope, reaching the conclusion that they are preeminently adapted to give the same sense of solidity, depth and space that we feel when looking at an actual scene. Among the helps in using stereographs are maps showing the actual area revealed by the picture. With such helps, the pictures and the stereoscope in which they are shown may be made, in their educational results, an effective, if not wholly adequate substitute for travel.

Islandica. An Annual relating to Iceland and the Fiske Icelandic Collection in Cornell University Library. Edited by George William Harris, Librarian. Vol. II. The Northmen in America. By Halldór Hermannsson. v and 92 pp. Cornell University Library, Ithaca, 1909. Contains principally a list of writings commenting upon the accounts given in the Sagas, of the voyages to America and the settlements made there by the ancient Norwegians and Icelanders.

Turtle Shell Rattles and other Implements from Indian Graves at Athens, Pa. By Christopher Wren. Reprint from *Proceedings and Collections* of the Wyoming Hist. and Geol. Soc., Vol. 10, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18 pp. Ills. Dr. Wren describes the finds and discusses their uses.

Deutschlands Stellung in der Weltwirtschaft. Von Prof. Dr. Paul Arndt. iii and 129 pp. B. G. Teubner, Leipzig, 1908. M. 1. Discusses Germany's production, commerce, communications, immigration, emigration, colonies, etc., and the natural and historical foundations of Germany's place in the trade and industry of the world.

Eduard Glaser's Forschungsreisen in Südarabien. Von Dr. Otto Weber. 32 pp. and Portrait. J. C. Hinrichs, Leipzig, 1909. Reprint from *Der Alte Orient*, Vol. 10, No. 2. A résumé of the four great journeys of Dr. Glaser in Arabia. He died in 1908, leaving many contributions to science, including the tracing of the origin of the Abyssinian kingdom to its home in Arabia.

CURRENT GEOGRAPHICAL PAPERS.

NORTH AMERICA.

CANADA. ALBERTA. ECONOMIC GEOLOGY.—Coal in Alberta. J.-A. Paulhus. *Bull. Soc. Géog. de Québec*, No. 4, 1909.

CANADA. GEOGRAPHICAL NOMENCLATURE.—Geographic Board of Canada. Decisions May, 1909. *Extract* from *The Canada Gazette*, May 29, 1909.

CANADA. GEOLOGICAL SURVEYS.—Explorations in the Churchill River and South Indian Lake. W. McInnes. *Sessional Paper* No. 26, *Summary Report* Geol. Sur. Branch Dep. of Mines for 1908. Ottawa, 1909.

CANADA. GEOLOGICAL SURVEYS.—A Geological Reconnaissance along the National Trans-Continental Railway from the St. Lawrence River to the Interprovincial Boundary between Quebec and New Brunswick. *Sessional Paper* 26, *Summary Report*, Geol. Sur. Branch Dep. of Mines for 1908. Ottawa, 1908.

CANADA. LIMNOLOGY.—A recently explored Lake in the Rocky Range of Canada. Indian's Map and Ills. Mary T. S. Schäffer. *Bull. Geog. Soc. Phil.*, No. 3, July, 1909.

MEXICO. AGAVES.—The Mexican Fiber Agave known as Zapupe. W. Trelease. *Trans. Acad. Sci. St. Louis*, No. 3, 1909.